

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct references to numbers shown in the drawings. As a result, Applicants submit that the drawings as filed now comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p)(5), and ask that the drawings be accepted without revision.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11 and 14 in response to the Examiner's formal objections. It is noted that the amendment to claim 1 provides proper antecedent basis for the phrase "articulated axis" in claims 4 and 5. This articulation axis is illustrated in the embodiment of Figs. 2 and 3 as axis 21, discussed in the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 17 of the specification. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that this axis is the axis about which the drive rocker and bristle holder relatively tilt, although such amendment does not appear to be required to obviate a rejection under 35 USC §112.

Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11-17 have been rejected as anticipated by Moriyama, U.S. 4,791,945. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, pointing out that Moriyama does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1.

For example, claim 1 recites a "drive rocker arranged to rock in multiple axes and driven by the motor to approximately traverse a double conical path." An example of such a motion is illustrated in Applicants Fig. 5, where each end of the drive rocker sweeps through a circular cone with an apex at the bearing member 13. To the extent that brush supporting arm 14 of Moriyama can be considered a drive rocker, it is clear that arm 14 does not rock in multiple axes or traverse a double conical path. Instead, throughout its motion arm 14 remains within a plane perpendicular to pivots 13 and 26. Figs. 7-10 of Moriyama illustrate that, within that plane, arm 14 sweeps through different paths depending on the effective crank arm of pivot 26 (i.e., the radial distance between pivot 26 and the axis of pin 22), but such motion is planar, not conical. Furthermore, Moriyama's bristle holder is not connected in a *jointed* manner to arm 14 as clearly recited in original claim 1. Thus for at least these omissions Moriyama does not anticipate any of the rejected claims. For conciseness, Applicants omit discussion of other features, such as

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features of various dependent claims, also missing from Moriyama, as the discussed omissions should be sufficient for a reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection by the Examiner.

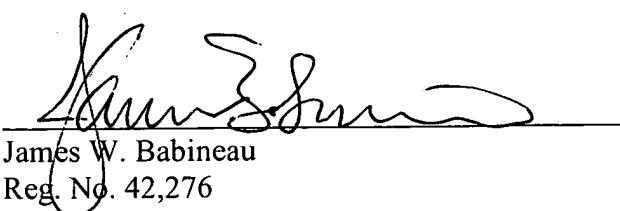
Claims 10 and 19 are rejected as obvious over Moriyama, considered alone. It is evident from the Examiner's explanation of this rejection that it is based upon the finding of all of the features of claim 1 as fairly disclosed by Moriyama. The Examiner merely takes the position with respect to these sub-claims that including a seal and making the bristle cluster approximately circular would be obvious, given anticipation of claim 1. Without conceding any particular issue of what would or would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill if claim 1 were to have been anticipated, Applicants submit that as there is no evident motivation for one of ordinary skill to have modified Moriyama's toothbrush to produce the kinematics described in Applicants' claim 1, claims 10 and 19 are allowable at least as depending from a non-obvious base claim.

The Examiner's finding of original claim 18 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form is acknowledged, with thanks. New claim 20 is introduced as a rewritten version of original claim 18, also incorporating some of the formality amendments made to claim 1.

No fees are believed due. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the above attorney docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 3, 2006

  
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